

Dating website for people keen to start a family

Level 3 • Advanced

1 Key words

Complete the sentences using these key words from the text.

dismayed
testimonial

prioritize
cohabit

taboo
ultimate

click
specify

overwhelming
remortgage

1. If you are _____, you feel very upset, disappointed or annoyed about something surprising or shocking that has happened.
2. If you _____ on something when using your computer, you press the button on the mouse to open a link or perform a similar operation.
3. To _____ means to decide in what order you should do things, based on how important or urgent they are.
4. Only used before a noun, _____ means as good or as bad as possible.
5. A _____ is something that people do not do or talk about because it is very offensive or shocking.
6. If you _____ a house or a property you have borrowed money to pay for, you borrow more money using the house or property as a guarantee.
7. To _____ is to explain something in an exact and detailed way.
8. If something is described as _____, it is much larger, stronger or more important than anything else in a particular situation.
9. A _____ is a formal statement about the qualities and character of someone or something.
10. If you _____, you live with another person without being married to them

2 Find the information

Scan the article to find the information.

1. What is the name of Emmanuel Limal's website?
2. What is his job?
3. How long has he lived in Denmark?
4. How many children, on average, does a Danish family have?
5. What is the population of Denmark?
6. What is a person from Copenhagen called?

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Brood boy: actor sets up Danish dating website for people keen to start a family

Frenchman launches dating website Babyklar in Denmark for men and women who want to be upfront about having children

Helen Russell

21 August, 2013

- 1 Serial dater Emmanuel Limal was tired of meeting women who weren't ready to start a family, or at least wouldn't admit that they were. The 43-year-old actor, originally from France, had spent 20 years living in Copenhagen and looking for love in the hope of raising children. He recently took his quest online but was dismayed by the results.
- 2 "I got frustrated with everyone trying to sell themselves as really active, always travelling or with a long list of hobbies, but no mention of children," Limal said. "On some sites, there was an option to click, saying: 'I'd like kids someday,' but you would read the person's profile and think: 'You will never have time!' If someone's going to the gym eight times a week and travelling every month, they are not putting a family first."
- 3 Limal has a six-year-old daughter from a previous relationship, but coming from a big family – his father is one of 11 – he has always wanted more children. "I couldn't seem to meet anyone willing to prioritize starting a family and struggled with when to mention wanting kids any time I met someone new. It's the ultimate dating taboo," he said. "Then one day I read a profile from a 38-year-old who said she knew it was 'really bad to admit' but she wanted children. And I just thought: 'You shouldn't be ashamed of this.'"
- 4 Limal remortgaged his apartment to fund the setting up of Babyklar.nu – or 'baby-ready now' in English. It functions like a normal dating site but every potential dater is asked to be honest about their wish to start a family soon. "We ask people if they are OK with someone who already has children as well as wanting another baby," Limal said. "But we don't make them specify how many children they'd like. That would be a bit too much like grocery shopping online."
- 5 The response to the site has been overwhelming, he said. "We had 50 sign-ups an hour when we launched in June and we are already hearing from couples who have met through the site and are now together. I'm fully expecting the first Babyklar.nu baby by next summer." More men have signed up than women (53% to 47%), with testimonials such as "It's so lovely to be able to say this out loud" and "I finally dare to be honest about what I want."
- 6 The site has come at an opportune time for the country of five million people. Danes are not having enough babies, according to a report from the Copenhagen hospital Rigshospitalet, and the current rate of 1.7 children per family is not enough to maintain Denmark's population. The usual suspects are being blamed for the new low – women leaving it "too late" and couples cohabiting and waiting to start families.
- 7 "Now, I hope, men and women who want to start a family but haven't met the right person yet will have another option," says Limal. He's keen to point out that this isn't just about baby farming: "I want this to be about children and love. My goal is to pair up people who really want a family and a partner – and who'll stay together. I'm a romantic at heart."
- 8 There are plans to roll out the site in France and the UK later in 2013, but for now it is the Danes who are reaping the benefits. "Danes have no problem having children before marriage so things can move fast and, because the country's so small, a Jutlander can date a Copenhagener without too much travel," Limal said. What's more, Limal has finally found love. "I've met a nice woman and she wants a baby too – so we shall see."

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3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer according to the text.

1. How did Emmanuel Limal find the money to set up his website?
 - a. He advertised in the Danish newspapers.
 - b. He remortgaged his apartment.
 - c. He sold his apartment.
2. Why was he frustrated with conventional dating websites?
 - a. because none of them mentioned children
 - b. because it was difficult for him to 'meet' anyone wanting to start a family on those websites
 - c. because they were a bit too much like grocery shopping online
3. What is the aim of Limal's website?
 - a. to increase the Danish birth rate
 - b. to encourage couples to cohabit
 - c. to pair up people who really want a family and a partner
4. Why has the launch of the website come at the right time for Denmark?
 - a. because the birth rate is not enough to maintain the country's population
 - b. because most Danes want to get married and have children
 - c. because many women leave it 'too late' to have children

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. an adjective meaning *doing something several times in the same way* (para 1)
2. a noun meaning *a long difficult search* (para 1)
3. a three word expression meaning *decide that someone or something is more important than anything else* (para 2)
4. a verb meaning *start selling a new product or service to the public* (para 5)
5. an adjective meaning *convenient or suitable* (para 6)
6. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *bring two people together* (para 7)
7. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *introduce a new product or service* (para 8)
8. a three-word expression meaning *profit from something that you have done* (para 8)

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5 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make collocations from the text.

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 1. start | a. love |
| 2. raise | b. the right person |
| 3. reap | c. children |
| 4. meet | d. a family |
| 5. find | e. the usual suspects |
| 6. blame | f. the benefits |

6 Word-building

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

- Emmanuel Limal is _____ from France. [ORIGIN]
- He has a child from a previous _____. [RELATION]
- He funded the _____ of the website by remortgaging his apartment. [SET UP]
- He says he is a _____ at heart. [ROMANCE]
- He has received a lot of _____. [TESTIMONY]
- He couldn't seem to meet anyone willing to _____ starting a family. [PRIORITY]

7 Discussion

The birth rate is falling in countries like Denmark. What do you think are the reasons for this? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

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KEY

1 Key words

1. dismayed
2. click
3. prioritize
4. ultimate
5. taboo
6. remortgage
7. specify
8. overwhelming
9. testimonial
10. cohabit

2 Find the information

1. Babyklar.nu
2. actor
3. 20 years
4. 1.7
5. five million
6. a Copenhagener

3 Comprehension check

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a

4 Find the word

1. serial
2. quest
3. put someone/something first
4. launch
5. opportune
6. pair up
7. roll out
8. reap the benefits

5 Verb + noun collocations

1. d
2. c
3. f
4. b
5. a
6. e

6 Word-building

1. originally
2. relationship
3. setting up
4. romantic
5. testimonials
6. prioritize